



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Enclosure 5a5
December 20, 2016

Ken Wagner, Ph.D.
Commissioner

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TO: Members of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education
FROM: Ken Wagner, Ph.D., Commissioner *KW*
RE: **The Learning Community – Request for Charter Expansion Amendment**

I present for your consideration a recommendation to approve The Learning Community's request for an expansion.

Amendment Request for Expansion:

The Learning Community is an independent charter located in Central Falls. The Learning Community is authorized to serve up to 558 students in grades K-8. Students enroll primarily from Central Falls, Pawtucket, and Providence.

The Learning Community requested an amendment to its charter to increase the charter's enrollment from 558 students to 585 students in grades K-8. All students will be enrolled from The Learning Community's currently approved catchment area of Central Falls, Pawtucket, and Providence.

In accordance to R.I.G.L. §16-77.3-3, requests for amendments to a charter for expansion require the action of the Council of Elementary and Secondary Education. Further, when considering the overall merits of a charter expansion request, R.I.G.L. § 16-77.3-3 requires the Council to place substantial weight on the fiscal impact on the city or town, programmatic impact on the sending school district, and the educational impact on the students in the sending district to ensure that the proposal is economically prudent for the city or town, and academically prudent for the proposed sending school district and for all students in the sending district.

RIDE has conducted an in-depth review of the proposed amendment request, including The Learning Community's track record of academic performance, public feedback, and the impact that the proposed expansion request would have on local communities.

RIDE has concluded that the proposal submitted by The Learning Community is both academically and economically prudent, and will result in high-quality academic opportunities for Rhode Island's students.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education moves to approve The Learning Community charter amendment for expansion, permitting The Learning Community to enroll up to 585 students in grades K-8 from Central Falls, Pawtucket, and Providence.